

# Healthy Homes:



# Healthy

# CHILDREN

Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning, Asthma, and Unintentional Injuries in the Home

Vol. 5 No. 1 February 2009

City of Milwaukee Health Department

## Lead Program Receives \$6.9 million in HUD Federal Grant Awards

The City of Milwaukee Health Department's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (MHDCLPPP), was the recent recipient of two major grant awards totaling \$6.9 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The awards will be used for funding program efforts to remove existing lead hazards from homes within high-risk Milwaukee neighborhoods.

Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker teamed up to announce the grant awards during a press conference held on October 27th at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, a long-time partner organization in lead poisoning prevention. Commissioner Baker cautiously acknowledged the success of the MHD and its community partners in addressing childhood lead poisoning to this point, stating that "while we have made great strides in reducing the number of children impacted in the city, we know that one out of five children in our highest risk neighborhoods is still affected. For this reason, we must continue to seek strategic partnerships and help further our impact in the community, particularly Milwaukee's north side Target Area, where lead poisoning rates are at 14.1%, or nine times greater than the national average of 1.6%." Mayor Barrett also expressed his gratitude for the MHD's receipt of the HUD awards and further stated that "this

*continued inside*

## United Health Care Honors Area Physicians and Clinics for Lead Testing Efforts

The Crowne Plaza Hotel provided an ideal setting for the recent 2008 Lead Recognition Banquet held on the evening of October 28th in Wauwatosa. Sponsored by United Healthcare, this dinner event paid tribute to those United Healthcare physicians and clinics showing the highest levels of improvement in assuring required blood lead testing among targeted youth in Medicaid eligible families, and the timely reporting of results to public health officials. Honorees were selected based on data published in the most recent Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program's Physician Report Card, a personalized blood lead testing summary furnished annually to all physicians statewide through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, (DHS).

During welcoming remarks by AmeriChoice CEO Jeffrey Nohl, attendees were commended for their efforts to increase blood lead testing rates among Medicaid-eligible youth over the past year. Nohl expressed United Healthcare's continued support for that mission and reaffirmed the critical role of healthcare in assisting children and families to prevent the potentially devastating health effects of childhood lead poisoning.

Guest speaker Margie Coons, Program Director of the Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, (WCLPPP), provided an update on the status of childhood lead poisoning in Wisconsin. Her remarks included a synopsis of current WCLPPP program ef-

forts and an overview of the design and purpose of the DHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Physician Report Card. Coons emphasized the need for the medical community to acknowledge and assure that blood lead testing becomes a consistently recognized medical standard across Wisconsin's entire healthcare system. Jeff Havlena, Surveillance Manager with the WCLPPP reinforced that message by providing an informative, data driven snapshot of childhood lead poisoning surveillance trends across all regions of the state which included where we are now, where

*continued inside*

Published by the City of Milwaukee Health Department, the Milwaukee **Healthy Homes: Healthy Children** features in-depth information, data and reports of interest to the medical community from the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention, Asthma and Unintentional Injury Programs.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## United Health Care Honors Area Physicians...

we need to be, and how reported blood lead testing data factors into the development of the DHS Childhood Lead Poisoning Physician Report Card.

The formal awards presentation included 10 honorees representing both healthcare clinics and private practice physicians. Each recipient received a personalized plaque and \$500 on behalf of their respective clinic or practice in recognition of their efforts to prevent and eliminate childhood lead poisoning across our state.

### 2008 Award Recipients

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Lisbon Avenue Health Center                         | Milwaukee |
| 16th Street Community Health Ctr.                   | Milwaukee |
| Kenosha Community Health Center                     | Kenosha   |
| Downtown Health Center                              | Milwaukee |
| Southeastern Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine Clinic | Milwaukee |
| Dr. Sherri Hoyman                                   | DePere    |
| Dr. Lalitha Rayan                                   | Milwaukee |
| Dr. Avadh Agarwal                                   | Glendale  |
| Dr. Muhammad Khan                                   | Kenosha   |
| Dr. Brian Yagoda                                    | Muskego   |

### \$6.9 million...

translates into the protection of thousands of children from lead poisoning.”

The MHD will apply the newly received grant dollars to an already strong network of supportive community partnerships resulting in the lead abatement of over 1,100 additional housing units over the next three years. The MHD’s goal as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and that of our nation, is to eliminate childhood lead poisoning. The MHD’s Primary Prevention Program continues to provide funding for eligible landlords and private home owners to do window lead abatement. Windows remain the greatest source of lead dust that contributes to childhood lead poisoning. It is estimated that there are approximately 53,000 living units at high-risk for lead in the city of Milwaukee. Over 13,000 living units have been made lead-safe since 1997 through a combination of education, enforcement, and funding opportunities offered to property owners through the MHD CLPPP Primary Prevention Program.



*Back row: Jeff Nohl, CEO United Healthcare; Dr. Brian Yagoda, Pro Healthcare Medical Center; Jack Waters, Executive Director Kenosha Community Health Center; Dr. David Waters, 16th Street Community Health Center; Dr. Allison Kos, Lisbon Avenue Health Center; Dr. Avadh Agarwal, Pediatric Associates; Ralph Beck, United Healthcare Vice-President of Marketing and Strategic Planning*

*Front Row: Ratidzai Masunungre Southeastern Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine Clinic; Margaret Layde, Downtown Health Center*

## Childhood Lead Poisoning Webcasts

*By Reghan Walsh, Wisconsin Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*

Webcast learning sessions on childhood lead poisoning are now available to be viewed at any time on the Lead-Safe Wisconsin webpage listed at the bottom of the box. Go to this website to view the topics below that were recorded in 2008. Associated materials are available for each of the webcasts.

### Lead 101 – What New Staff Need to Know –

This training has three separate recordings so you can quickly get to the information you want:

**Section 1:** Cause and Effects of Childhood Lead Poisoning (including Wisconsin-specific data)

**Section 2:** Nursing and Medical Case Management for Childhood Lead Poisoning

**Section 3:** Environmental Case Management and Education for Childhood Lead Poisoning

### Improving Blood Lead Testing Using Medicaid Provider Report Cards

Report cards were created to inform Medicaid providers in Wisconsin about their individual performance in testing children who are at high risk and required to be tested. Data indicates that this has resulted in improvement in blood lead testing of children and identification of children who are lead poisoned.

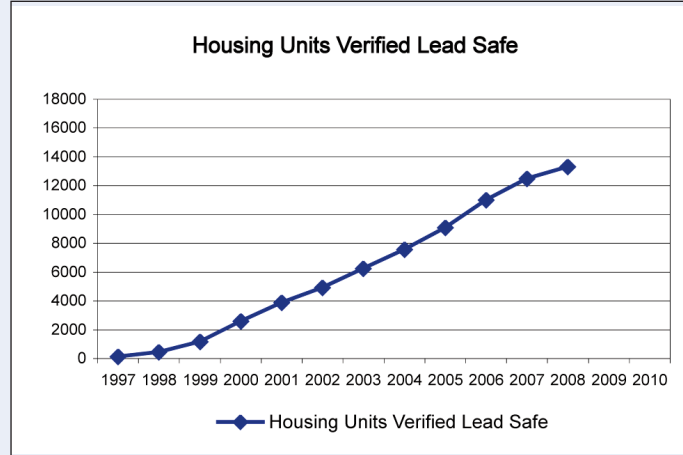
### Lead in Venison

A presentation on the current issue of lead fragments found in venison and collaboration to study its effects on venison consumers. Food pantry and consumption advisory information for Wisconsin is addressed.

[dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/webcasts/index.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/lead/webcasts/index.htm)

# Milwaukee's Lead Safe Housing Registry Shows Continued Growth

The Primary Prevention and ordered work programs within the MHD's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program serve as the hub for window lead abatement and overall lead hazard remediation in affected target area homes. Windows represent the greatest source of lead contaminated dust that contributes to childhood lead poisoning. The creation of lead-safe housing units within Milwaukee's high-risk target areas represents a primary goal of the program and serves as a key measure of success in its efforts to also achieve the goal of the U.S. Center for Disease Control, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Milwaukee's goal of eliminating childhood lead poisoning by the year 2010. Through December 31, 2008, a total of 13,315 housing units have been declared lead safe in the official Housing Registry of the City of Milwaukee Health Department's Childhood



Lead Poisoning Prevention Program. The accompanying reference table demonstrates a continued increase in verified lead-safe housing units that has been achieved since 1997.

| Year | # Units | Cum.   |
|------|---------|--------|
| 1997 | 127     | 127    |
| 1998 | 312     | 439    |
| 1999 | 739     | 1178   |
| 2000 | 1398    | 2576   |
| 2001 | 1293    | 3869   |
| 2002 | 1036    | 4905   |
| 2003 | 1327    | 6232   |
| 2004 | 1348    | 7580   |
| 2005 | 1510    | 9090   |
| 2006 | 1901    | 10,991 |
| 2007 | 1492    | 12,483 |
| 2008 | 832     | 13,315 |

## Healthy Communities, Healthy People State-wide April Conference Goes Green

**Healthy Communities, Healthy People** is the theme of the joint Spring Conference of the Wisconsin Environmental Health Association (WEHA) and the Wisconsin Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health (BEOH), Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). It will be held April 27-29, at the Marriott Madison West in Middleton, just west of Madison. WEHA and DHS have organized a confluence of conferences that includes topics and tracks from other familiar, well-attended annual conferences including the BEOH Look Out for Lead Conference; WEHA Annual Spring Conference; BEOH Food Safety and Recreational Licensing Training; and the BEOH Wisconsin Environmental Health Conference.

The breakout tracks for the upcoming Healthy Communities, Healthy People Conference will address a wide variety of health issues: indoor air investigations; radon; drinking water contaminants; environmental links to chronic health issues; radiation news; childhood lead poisoning progress in Wisconsin; new EPA renovation and repair rules; childhood lead poisoning and school performance; nanotechnology research in foods and commercial products; emerging 21st century environmental

health outbreak responsibilities; CDC risk factors & GIS; using the Wisconsin Public Health Information Network; data applications; and the role of public health in designing healthy communities, among others.

In addition to the mix of conference tracks, several special events are also planned. A Registered Sanitarian (RS) Exam Study Session will be available on April 27th to attendees. This special session will increase familiarity with the RS exam, provide helpful hints about topics to study, and furnish information on how to obtain copies of sample questions to assure optimal preparation for the exam. On the social scene, attendees are encouraged to join their colleagues for hors d'oeuvres and their beverage of choice as part of a special Welcome Reception planned in cooperation with the Middleton Department of Tourism. The reception will be at the Capital Brewery in Middleton on the evening of April 27th.

The Healthy Communities, Healthy People Spring Conference will exemplify its theme by "Going Green" throughout the course of the event. Things to watch for include E-mail and Online Marketing of the conference to reduce ink and paper use; Online Session Handouts in advance so that you print only the ones you want; an

Online Carpooling Center to assist with transportation and reduce ozone emissions; Trolley Service to and from the Welcome Reception and nearby restaurants to reduce carbon emissions; and water in pitchers to help keep plastic bottles out of our landfills. Do you have other "green" ideas? Contact Sara Ishado at (608) 267-2488 or email [saras.ishado@wisconsin.gov](mailto:saras.ishado@wisconsin.gov).

The Healthy Communities, Healthy People Conference is designed to provide a quality education and networking experience for health professionals from multiple disciplines including health officers, administrators, physicians, public health nurses, public health educators, environmental health specialists, registered sanitarians, program managers, and a host of other health-related occupations. It is also being promoted to health professionals in other states throughout the Midwest. A block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants at the government rate of \$70/single and \$90/ double. To get the government rate, reservations must be made by March 27th. Go to the website at the end of this article to obtain registration information and the conference brochure.



## HOME ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>City of Milwaukee Health Department</b> .....   | <b><a href="http://www.milwaukee.gov/health">www.milwaukee.gov/health</a></b> |
| <i>General Information: Lead Poisoning Prevention Hotline</i> (414) 225-LEAD [225-5323]  |   |
| <b>Fight Asthma Milwaukee Allies</b> .....   | <b><a href="http://www.famallies.org">www.famallies.org</a></b>               |
| <i>Community-based coalition of agencies fighting asthma</i> (414) 765-9355  |   |
| <b>State Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS)</b> .....   | <b><a href="http://www.dhfs.wi.gov/lead">www.dhfs.wi.gov/lead</a></b>         |
| <i>Adult Lead Exposure and Reporting</i> (608) 266-0197  |   |
| <b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</b> .....  | <b><a href="http://www.epa.gov">www.epa.gov</a></b>                           |
| <i>National Lead Information Center Hotline</i> 1-800-424-5323   |   |
| <b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)</b> .....  | <b><a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a></b>                           |
| <i>Standards for Health Risk, Screening Recommendations, Asthma, Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Injury Information</i> (414) 639-3311 |   |
| <b>National Center for Healthy Housing</b> .....   | (410) 992-0712  |
| <b>Environmental Health Watch</b> .....  | <b><a href="http://www.ehw.org">www.ehw.org</a></b>                           |

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